



Security is Everyone's Responsibility!

# Holiday Security Briefing

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Prepared by:  
Office of Security  
Anti-Terrorism Division



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# Holiday Security

The Holiday season is a time to celebrate with family and friends and to give thanks for our good fortunes. Unfortunately, the holidays can also be a time when mishaps can occur. This briefing was developed to decrease your chances of being involved in a mishap.



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## ■ Holiday Decorations

- Use UL listed decorations
- Always inspect cords for frayed and loose connections
- Do not use indoor extension cords outdoors
- Use grounded extension cords
- Use proper elevation devices (don't use a chair when a ladder is needed)
- Do not use lit candles on the tree
- If you use a fresh cut tree, keep the water re-supplied and check the tree for dryness - needles should bend, not break
- Do not place lit candles near curtains or other flammable materials
- Unplug your decorations/lights when unattended
- Keep fire extinguisher handy and check expiration dates
- Poinsettias, holly, and mistletoe can be hazardous to children and pets
- Keep decorations out of reach of small children



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## ■ Holiday Cooking

- Turn handles on pots and pans inward on stove
- Test fire detectors monthly to make sure they are working properly
- Do not leave cooking unattended
- Refrigerate leftovers as soon as possible
- Never use water on a grease fire

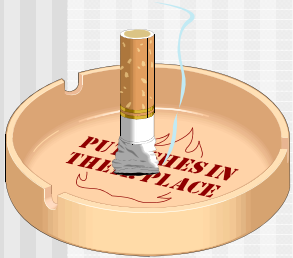


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## ■ Celebrations

- Take your role as host seriously and
  - Ensure designated drivers are available
  - Offer a place to stay
  - Provide plenty of food so the guest will not drink as much
  - Don't push drinks
- If at a public setting; **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR DRINKS UNATTENDED**
- Avoid celebrations that include illegal substances



Department of Commerce  
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- Cold Weather Injuries and Winter Driving
  - Ensure clothing is worn in layers to prevent cold weather injuries such as hypothermia, frost-bite, etc.
  - Winterize your vehicle
  - Reduce driving speed, especially during inclement weather
  - Check tires frequently (i.e., wear, inflation, etc.)
  - Keep non-perishable food, water and blanket in your vehicle for emergency situations
  - Keep your cellular phone fully charged in case of emergency during travel



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## ■ Personal Protection While Shopping

- Shop with friends or family - there is safety in numbers
- Be alert - stay in well lit areas and aware of your surroundings at all times
- If you carry a purse, keep it in front of your body and close to you
- Carry your keys in your pocket or hand. If a thief gets your purse, you will still have the keys to your house and car
- Dress casually; thieves and pickpockets are attracted to expensive clothes and jewelry
- Don't flash large amounts of cash
- Don't over burden yourself with packages
- Lock your car and don't leave items in plain sight
- Avoid parking next to large vehicles where thieves can be undetected
- Check your vehicle for uninvited guests prior to entering



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## ■ Toy Buying Safety

- Select toys to suit age, abilities, skills, and interests of the child
- Avoid toys with small parts that can cause choking hazards for infants and toddlers
- Read labels and use age guidelines for all toy purchases
- Look for sturdy construction and tightly secured small parts on toys
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings that can cause suffocation hazards
- Call the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) hotline 800-638-2772 to report dangerous toys
- Routinely check the CPSC recall list at <http://www.cpsc.gov>





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## ■ Air Travel Considerations

- Expect increased security at airports and allow additional time for check-in
- Have a photo ID ready (avoid using Federal IDs overseas)
- Don't leave bags unattended or carry any for strangers
- Keep carry-on luggage light, storing it under the seat in front of you
- Watch for heavy items stored over head
- Pack medicines or dietary needs in your carry-on bag
- Dress for the climate of your arrival



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## ■ Air Travel Considerations (continued)

- Listen to your pre-flight safety briefing
- Read the safety data card in the seat pocket in front of you
- Know where the emergency exits are from your seat
- Wear your seatbelt at all times
- If traveling overseas, contact DOC Office of Security/Anti-Terrorism Division for a travel briefing prior to departure



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*Have a happy  
holiday and joyous  
New Year*

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